

House Engrossed
FILED
KEN BENNETT
SECRETARY OF STATE

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-ninth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2010

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2026

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

**ACKNOWLEDGING THE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS FOR THEIR SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO
AMERICAN HISTORY AND MILITARY SUCCESS.**

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, on December 7, 1941, the Japanese Empire attacked Pearl
2 Harbor, and Congress declared war the following day; and

3 Whereas, the military code, developed by the United States for
4 transmitting messages, had been deciphered by the Japanese and United States
5 intelligence made a search to develop new means to counter the enemy; and

6 Whereas, the United States government called on the Navajo Nation to
7 support the military effort by recruiting and enlisting 29 Navajo men to
8 serve as Marine Corps Radio Operators. The number of enlistees later
9 increased to over four hundred; and

10 Whereas, at the time, the Navajos were a people who were discouraged
11 from using their own language; and

12 Whereas, the Navajo Marine Corps Radio Operators, who became known as
13 the Navajo Code Talkers, developed a code using their language to communicate
14 military messages in the Pacific; and

15 Whereas, to the enemy's frustration, the code developed by these Native
16 Americans proved to be unbreakable and was used extensively throughout the
17 Pacific theater; and

18 Whereas, the Navajo language, discouraged in the past, was instrumental
19 in developing the most significant and successful military code of the time.
20 At Iwo Jima alone, Code Talkers passed over 800 error-free messages in a
21 48-hour period; and

22 Whereas, the Navajo Code Talkers were so successful that military
23 commanders credited the Code Talkers' code with saving the lives of countless
24 American soldiers and the successful engagements of the American forces in
25 the battles of Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Okinawa; and

26 Whereas, following the conclusion of World War II, the United States
27 Department of Defense maintained the secrecy of the Navajo code until it was
28 declassified in 1968. Only then did a realization of the sacrifice and valor
29 of these brave Native Americans emerge from history; and

30 Whereas, the Navajo Code Talkers' remarkable contribution to this
31 country went unrecognized until 2001 when President George W. Bush awarded
32 the Code Talkers the Congressional Gold Medal; and

33 Whereas, there were initially more than 400 Navajo Code Talkers, but
34 now fewer than 60 remain, none of whom is under 80 years of age.

35 Therefore

36 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the
37 Senate concurring:

38 1. That the Members recognize the enormous contributions of the Navajo
39 Code Talkers to American history and military success, and support the
40 preservation of the Navajo Code Talkers' remarkable legacy.

41 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
42 of this Resolution to the Secretary of the United States Department of the
43 Interior, to the President of the Navajo Nation and to each Member of
44 Congress from the State of Arizona.

~~UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE MARCH 31, 2010.~~

~~UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE SENATE APRIL 1, 2010.~~

~~FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 1, 2010.~~